

CLAIMS

I claim:

- 1) A method of exploring; comprising the steps of:
writing center text;
displaying the center text in a center node;
writing first order implications, each first order implication forming at least a part
of an arc;
displaying each first order implication in a first order node;
connecting each first order node to the center node;
writing any desired child implications of any existing implications;
displaying the child implications in child nodes;
connecting the child nodes to an associated parent node to form a wheel; and
preparing and displaying a summary of the wheel including only those
implications, together with any ancestor implications necessary to connect
to the center text, that are both significant implications and match any
user determined auxiliary summary parameters.
- 2) The method of claim 1 further comprising the step of:
visually rotating the wheel in a plane skewed to a plane defined by a monitor
screen.

- 3) The method of claim 2 wherein the wheel is rotated when any node is selected; the selected node is rotated to the foreground.
- 4) The method of claim 1 wherein the nodes forming the wheel are displayed in a diminished mode such that the implication within the node is not revealed.
- 5) The method of claim 4 further comprising the step of:
fully displaying each node including revealing each implication within each node.
- 6) The method of claim 4 further comprising the step of:
fully displaying a portion of the nodes, including revealing the implications within some of the nodes.
- 7) The method of claim 1 further comprising the steps of:
encrypting data associated with one arc; and
electronically distributing that arc for completion and scoring.
- 8) A method of exploring; comprising the steps of:
writing center text;
displaying the center text in a center node;
writing first order implications, each first order implication forming at least a part of an arc;

displaying each first order implication in a first order node;
connecting each first order node to the center node;
writing any desired child implications of any existing implications;
displaying the child implications in child nodes;
connecting the child nodes to an associated parent node to form a wheel
scoring the implications according to at least two view points; and
preparing and displaying a conflict summary wheel including only those
implications, together with any ancestor implications necessary to connect
to the center text, that both are significant implications and received a
conflicting score between at least two different viewpoints.

- 9) The method of claim 8 further comprising the step of:
visually rotating the conflict summary wheel in a plane skewed to a plane
defined by a monitor screen.
- 10) The method of claim 9 wherein the wheel is rotated when a node is selected; the
selected node being rotated to the foreground.
- 11) The method of claim 8 wherein the nodes forming the wheel are displayed in a
diminished mode such that the implication within the node is not revealed.

- 12) The method of claim 11 further comprising the step of:
fully displaying each node including revealing each implication within each node.
- 13) The method of claim 11 further comprising the step of:
fully displaying a portion of the nodes, including revealing the implications within
some of the nodes.
- 14) The method of claim 8 further comprising the steps of:
encrypting data associated with one arc; and
electronically distributing that arc for completion and scoring.
- 15) A method of exploring; comprising the steps of:
writing center text;
displaying the center text in a center node;
writing first order implications, each first order implication forming at least a part
of an arc;
displaying each first order implication in a first order node;
connecting each first order node to the center node;
writing any desired child implications of any existing implications;
displaying the child implications in child nodes;
connecting the child nodes to an associated parent node to form a wheel; and
randomly selecting any node of any order to be scored by clicking on the node;

scoring the selected node as to significance and likelihood; and
visually removing indicia designating a node as non-scored and marking the
node as scored once the node is scored, such marking being positionable
inside the node, on the line defining the node and outside the node.

- 16) The method of claim 15 the step of marking the node as scored further comprising the steps of:
coloring the inside of the node; and
changing the color of text within the node.
- 17) The method of claim 15 further comprising the step of:
distributing arcs for completion and scoring; and
combining completed and scored arcs into a wheel.
- 18) The method of claim 17 further comprising the step of:
visually rotating the wheel in a plane skewed to a plane defined by a monitor
screen.
- 19) The method of claim 18 wherein the wheel is rotated when a node is selected;
the selected node being rotated to the foreground.

- 20) The method of claim 17 wherein the nodes forming the wheel are displayed in a diminished mode such that the implication within the node is not revealed.
- 21) The method of claim 20 further comprising the step of:
fully displaying a portion of the nodes, including revealing the implications within some of the nodes.